

Nutrition/Health Volume
Certification Section

Risk Factor 381 (Dental Problems) (2.03900)

ER# 2.03900

Authority 2010 7 CFR 246.7(e)
Issued 1/82
Revised 10/10

POLICY: Risk factor 381 (Dental Problems) shall be assigned to participants who have qualifying dental risks or oral problems. Procedures for obtaining data, documentation and assigning risk factors shall be followed.

PROCEDURES:

A. Obtaining Data:

1. The HPA, WIC Certifier or CPA must assess for dental risks by either:
 - a. Performing an oral inspection as outlined in the Health and Nutrition Assessment Handbook (HNAH).
 - b. Asking the following Mandatory Dental Health Questions (MDHQs):
 - i. Have you (or your infant/child) visited a dentist within the past 12 months? If no, continue with questions number 2 through 4, below, as appropriate.
 - a) If yes, did the dentist indicate any dental problem?
 - b) If no, no further assessment is needed, except for prenatal women and infants.
 - 1) For prenatal women, ask question number 4 below to screen for gum infection of pregnancy.
 - 2) For infants, ask question number two (2) below to screen for baby bottle tooth decay.
 - ii. Do you (or your infant/child) have tooth decay (including baby bottle tooth decay), broken teeth, bleeding gums, gum infection (periodontal disease)*, missing teeth and/or misplaced teeth that make chewing difficult?
 - iii. Do you (or your child) avoid certain foods that you would otherwise eat, or choose softer foods, because of chewing problems?
 - iv. For pregnant woman only: Do your gums feel swollen, sensitive, bleed easily or have a reddened appearance?

B. Documenting:

1. The HPA, WIC Certifier or CPA shall document in MOWINS the following:

- a. how the oral assessment was performed {oral inspection (OI) or MDHQ's}
- b. the results of the oral assessment (e.g. MDHQ's asked and participant reported no problems with oral health and/or chewing)

C. Assessing and Assigning:

- 1. The HPA, WIC Certifier or CPA shall manually assign risk factor 381 if any of the following exist:
 - a. There is diagnosis of dental problems by a dentist, physician or a health care provider working under the orders of a physician.
 - b. Baby bottle tooth decay (also known as nursing caries or early childhood caries), smooth surface decay is present in infants and children.
 - c. Tooth decay, broken teeth, gum infection (periodontal disease), tooth loss and/or ineffectively replaced teeth that impair the ability to chew food in adequate quantity or quality are present in women and children.
 - d. Gingivitis is present in pregnant women.
 - e. Oral inspection indicates a problem.

D. Providing Appropriate Counseling (See [Counseling Guides](#) for suggested counseling). Refer to the [Nutrition Training Manual](#) for more information.

- 1. Counseling and education shall be provided by the CPA.
- 2. Document counseling contact in MOWINS.

E. Providing Referrals

- 1. Refer to dental health care provider, if needed; provide appropriate referral information and document in MOWINS.

*Periodontal disease (gum infection) is evidenced by swollen, red, bleeding and inflamed gums.